

California Teleconnect Fund



California Public Utilities Commission **Consumer Facts**

The California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) provides discounts on some telecommunications services, such as DSL, for schools, libraries, certain health care providers, and qualifying community based organizations. This fact sheet provides some answers to frequently asked questions about the program.

Questions	Answers
What schools qualify for these discounts?	Public or nonprofit schools that provide elementary or secondary education and have endowments that are less than \$50 million.
What libraries qualify for these discounts?	Libraries eligible to participate in state-based plans for funds under Title III of the Library Services and Technology Act.
What health care institutions?	Hospitals and health clinics that are owned and operated by a municipal or county government or a hospital district.
What other organizations qualify?	Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) that are Tax-exempt organizations as described in Section 501c. (3) or 501d. of the Internal Revenue Code, Title 26 of the United States Code. AND They must provide one of the following: health care, job training, job placement, educational instruction, or access to and training on the Internet and other computer-related technologies.
What discount and services qualify for the Fund?	A 50% discount applies to all measured business service lines, Switched 56 lines, ISDN, DSL, T-1, DS-3, and up to and including OC-192 services or their equivalents.

Telecommunications

Need help with a utility complaint? Call 1-800-649-7570, or use the complaint form at: www.cpuc.ca.gov.

Would you like someone to speak at your community or group meeting? Call the CPUC Outreach Program: in Los Angeles: 213-576-7058, San Diego: 619-525-4309, San Francisco: 415-703-2074. [rev. Apr 2004]

Questions	Answers
What is the process to apply?	Complete an application and send it to the CPUC at the address on the form. The application is available (in PDF format only) from the CPUC website at www.cpuc.ca.gov . Under the Regulated Areas choices, select Telecommunications, and then look under Public Programs.
How can I check on my application?	The Telecommunications Division will notify applicants of their eligibility in writing and will post a list on the web site.
What's the effective date?	The "filed-date" that is stamped on the application is the effective date.
What comes next?	After receiving a copy of your approved application from the Telecommunications Division, contact your local phone company to arrange discounted services. Provide a copy of the CPUC's qualifying letter and the date-stamped application as proof of eligibility.
Are there other programs for technology or telecommunications discounts?	Yes, for example, the Federal Communications Commission and the Calif. Dept. of Education websites have information about programs available for schools and libraries at: (FCC) http://sl.universalservice.org or call 888-203-8100, and (Dept. of Education) http://www.cde.ca.gov/ . CBOs may check with two groups about other funds: http://www.zerodivide.org/ and http://www.consumerfdn.org/
Who can I contact for more information?	The CPUC Outreach Officers will answer general questions about the CTF - Donna Silvestre at 213-576-7058 or John Morgan at 619-525-4309.